

THE LIBERTY BELL

The Newsletter of the Sons of Liberty Chapters, Sons of the American Revolution

Volume 28
Number 9

October
2009

Our Commander-in-Chief's Guards at the American Cemetery at Normandy, France

OUR JOINT MEETING ONBOARD THE S.S. LANE VICTORY

On Saturday, September 19th, President Jim Olds of the Harbor Chapter, assisted by Vice President General Karl Jacobs and their team from the Harbor Chapter hosted a joint Chapter meeting onboard the S.S. Lane Victory, a World War Two Victory ship, now a floating museum. The Chapter's joining the Harbor Chapter were the Orange County Chapter, the Sons of Liberty Chapter and the South Coast Chapter. The meeting was very well attended with 58 Compatriots and family members. Our Chapter was represented by President Doug Bradley, 1st Vice President Melvin Harrell, wife Kathy, 2nd Vice President Ron Johnson, wife Barbara, Secretary Donald Moran, and wife Linda, Chaplain Vic Springer, and wife Ann, Historian Jim Bradley, Trustee Jim McHargue, and wife Paula, Lowell Downer, Elliott Graham, David Lasher and wife Dawn and

sons Jesse and Sean and Charles Maples.

The meeting started with luncheon of fried chicken, salad, sweet potato and corn on the cob, held in a converted cargo hold, now a museum and meeting area.

Karl Jacobs brought greetings from the National Society and advised some of the matters that will be brought up at the September 24th - 26th Leadership Meeting in Louisville and the coming Marching Through History event on October 3rd and 4th.

Next, Jim Olds, the President of the Harbor Chapter advised the group of some coming events. which included a celebration of Con-

stitution Day event, with the invitation being presented by the DAR. The guest speaker was Kerry Bartels of the National Archives at Laguna Niguel. *continued on page 5 -->*



L-TO-R: MELVIN HARRELL, CHARLES MAPLES, LOWELL DOWNER, JIM BRADLEY, DON MORAN, DOUG BRADLEY, KATHY HARRELL AND LINDA MORAN



**Named Best Chapter
in the SAR 1983
1989, 1995, 1996
2002 & 2003**



**Named Best Newsletter
in the SAR
1983, 1985, 1989,
1992, 1994, 1999 & 2002**



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Trustees of the Permanent Fund

David W. Eaton - Term: 2007-2010
James C. McHargue - Term 2008-2011
David M. Hayball - Term 2009-2012

The *Liberty Tree* is the official newsletter of the Sons of Liberty Chapter, SAR. The opinions expressed herein are those of the authors and not that of the Chapter, State or National Society. Donald N. Moran, Editor, 17651 Arlington Place Tehachapi, CA. 93561 - 1-661-823-9227 - E-mail: dmoransar@att.net. Virginia Emrey Patten, Assistant Editor. Jim Bradley and Linda Moran photographers.



Meeting Notice

12:00 P.M. - SATURDAY - OCTOBER 17th, 2009

Topic:

THE VALLEY FORGE TEACHER'S PROGRAM

Speaker:

SHIRLEY JUDY

Shirley teaches at the Carden Elementary School in Tehachapi, California, a private school with a very high academic rating.

Shirley was proposed to the California Society, SAR by our Chapter, and selected to be one of the two teachers sponsored by the State Society to be sent to Valley Forge, Pennsylvania to participate in this extremely informative program.

Shirley will detail her experience and the value of the program and how it will influence her role as a teacher.

WE SUPPORT OUR TROOPS



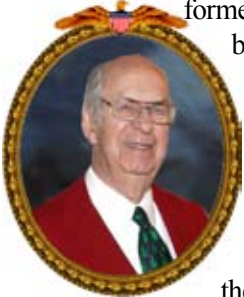
Our Chapter has seven Compatriots in uniform and we wish to formally thank them for their service.

- Lt. Col. David Smith, USAF - (Edwards AFB, CA).**
- Major Mason Dula, USAF - (Middle-East),**
- Capt. Eric Fourroux, USA - (Arlington, VA),**
- 2nd Lieut. Sean Hayball, USA - (Schofield Barracks, HI)**
- Sergeant Major William Fitzgerald, USMC - (Okinawa)**
- LCpl Christopher Pickens USMC - (CO)**
- PFC Daniel Pickens USA - (Fort Knox, KY)**

Compatriots in the News

THE REV. VICTOR SPRINGER

Our Chaplain suffered a stroke on the first of August. We were closely informed of his condition by Vice President Ron Johnson. To our surprise and relief Victor attended our August 15th meeting and led the Chapter in the benediction. He then addressed the Chapter advising that it is extremely important that each and everyone of us recognize the symptoms of a stroke, so that immediate medical assistance can be obtained. In cases of strokes, the first hour is incredibly important and can determine the severity of it. He also thanked everyone for their prayers and good wishes.



THE HONORABLE JEFFERY PRANG

Compatriot Jeff Prang was reelected Mayor of the City of West Hollywood for his second term. West Hollywood is a suburb of Los Angeles with a population of 35,000.



COMPATRIOT LOWELL DOWNER



While vacationing in Vancouver, British Columbia Lowell experienced a nasty fall and broke his hip. He has recovered nicely and is looking forward to participating as a Guardsman at the forthcoming Marching Through History event.

Happy Birthday

Daniel Harrell 10/02
Daniel Pickens 10/25

Happy Anniversary

Howard & Nancy Horne
married: 10/01/1948 -- 61 years

Robert & Maureen Emrey
married: 10/12/2003 -- 6 years

Max & Hueih Hurlbut
married: 10/13/1982 -- 27 years

David & Angela Pratt
married: 10/14/2007 -- 2 years

J. David & Evelyn Simpson
married: 10/16/2004 -- 5 years

Bruce & Betty Jagger
married: 10/27/1962 -- 47 years

Jay & Francoise Jackson
married: 10/29/1960 -- 49 years

Registrar's Report

Name	1	2	3	4	5
Nicholas Anduze	✓				
Dino Cardone	✓				
Michael E. Coyle	✓				
Jay Dupre	✓				
Owen G. Dupre	✓				
Wyatt J. Dupre	✓				
Don Gough					
Jonathan Harrell	✓	✓	✓		
Joshua Hayball	✓	✓			
Bill Knoll	✓				
John P. Marshall	✓				
John Mohler	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Dana Patten	✓	✓			
James B. Reidy, Jr.	✓	✓			
Sean O'Rourke	✓	✓			
C. Schutzenberger	✓				
Michael Squires	✓	✓			
John Stites	✓				
Eric Tukey	✓				
Richard J. Welsh	✓	✓	✓	✓	

Legend

- (1) Worksheet sent to applicant
- (2) Worksheet received
- (3) Genealogical work in progress
- (4) Application in preparation
- (5) Application at Nat'l for approval

Berni K. Campbell
Registrar

Your 2010 Annual Sons of the American Revolution Dues Notice

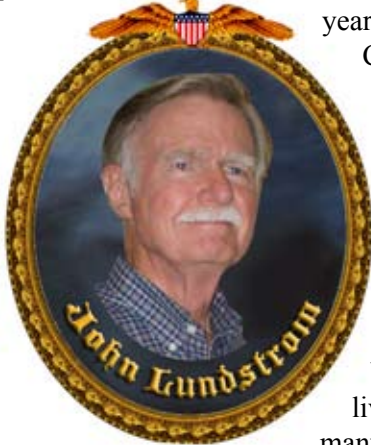
Compatriots - - The Chapter mailed your 2010 Annual dues notice via U.S. Mail. You should have it already or shortly. In the notice we explained that the National Society has increased the National portion of the dues by \$5.00 (now \$30.00). When added to the State and Chapter, the total amount

is now \$63.00. This was the first dues increase in eight (8) years! In spite of the National financial downturn it was absolutely necessary. If this presents a problem for you, please contact our Secretary. Your continued support of the Society and the protection of our precious heritage is greatly appreciated.



Compatriots in the News

Our newest Compatriot, John W. Lundstrom, a descendant of Charles Webster, a fifer in the Connecticut Militia, has a very interesting background. He has served as president of the Glendora Historical Society for several



years, and this year is serving as Co-President. The Glendora Historical Society operates a museum just north of Glendora Village in a building, part of which was the original City Hall, Fire Station and Town Jail. The museum's collection is largely artifacts donated by local families who have lived in Glendora for decades,

many of the items on display are over 100 years old, representing life in Glendora in the "kinda - gentler days". The collection actually represents life in Southern California.

About five years ago the Glendora Historical Society was the recipient of a community treasure called "Rubel Farms". This is a 1.7 acre plot in one of the better Glendora neighborhoods on which are the buildings and vehicles of an original citrus ranch. There are two citrus packing houses one for oranges and a smaller one for lemons that were packed in small gift crates. The owner of this property was an eccentric genius who, because he lived near the town dump, built kid's castles from the discarded scrap materials. As an adult he built a rock castle using as the foundation an abandoned water reservoir that was 123 feet in diameter and 12 feet deep.

One of the crowning items on the Pharm is the Castle tower clock. The tower is about sixty-feet tall and contains a large Seth Thomas movement that was built in 1890. There were only six of these ever built and only two are known to exist today - Stanford University and The Pharm. One of John's duties to to wind the clock each day and to make sure it is showing the correct time as the neighborhood has become accustomed to depend on it.



You can Google "Rubel Pharm" where you will find links to remote visits of the Pharm. The images available thereon are most interesting.

Additionally, tours are available and applications for tours are also available on line.

YOU CAN TAKE THE COMPATRIOT OUT OF THE AIR FORCE BUT YOU CAN'T TAKE THE AIR FORCE OUT OF THE COMPATRIOT



COMPATRIOT FRED PHILLIPS SITTING IN THE COCKPIT OF HIS 3/4'S SCALE P-51 MUSTANG REPLICA

Soon after retiring from the Air Force as a Senior Master Sergeant, Fred purchased a "build it yourself" three quarter scale replica of the most famous of World War II's fighters, the famed P-51 "Mustang". That was back in the summer of 1988! Constructing it as time permitted, it took twenty-one years to complete. On August 12th, 2009, builder and pilot Fred Phillips took it for it's first test flight. It was a success! As Fred reported in his note: "I only waited 20 years for today, but with all the problems, I DID FLY!" Fred's been a member of our Chapter since June of 1995.



THE LIBERTY TREE **OCTOBER 2009**

OUR JOINT MEETING ONBOARD THE S.S. LANE VICTORY

continued from page 1

The slide presentation and information presented was extremely informative. Following the joint meeting, the Chapters held their own business meetings. President Douglas Bradley held the shortest Sons of Liberty Chapter Business meeting on record.



VICE PRESIDENT GENERAL KARL WM. JACOBS BRING GREETINGS FROM THE NATIONAL SOCIETY



GUEST SPEAKER JERRY BARTELS OF THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES AT LAGUNA NIGUEL ADDRESSING THE AUDIENCE



58 GUESTS ENJOYING LUNCH ONBOARD THE S.S. LANE VICTORY



GUEST SPEAKER JERRY BARTELS OF THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES AT LAGUNA NIGUEL RECEIVING THE SAR CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION FROM PRESIDENTS DAVID R. SILER (ORANGE COUNTY CHAPTER), JAMES OLDS (HARBOR CHAPTER) AND DOUGLAS H. BRADLEY (SONS OF LIBERTY CHAPTER)



COMPATRIOT DAVID LASHER AND HIS WIFE DAWN AND THEIR TWO HANDSOME FUTURE SAR'S JESSE (8 YEARS OLD) AND SEAN (6 YEARS OLD).





We Really Do Support Our Veterans - An Editorial



We have often seen our fellow citizens paying their respects to our fallen heroes that were killed in action. We also know that many of our SAR Chapters have participated in memorial services for these men and women. We even added a commemorative star with the name of our Compatriot Sergeant Allan Walker, USMC, killed in action in Iraq to our Chapter's SAR flag. But, in all my years, I have never witnessed just how much respect we as Americans have for our veterans as occurred on Friday, September 25th at the newly created National Cemetery - Bakersfield.

On Monday, the 21st, my wife, Linda, the Regent of Tehachapi's Tomo-Kahni Daughters of the American Revolution Chapter received a request from the National Cemetery. Two homeless veterans, Staff Sergeant Vincent Barrett (who was awarded two Purple Hearts) and

Airman 2nd Class Ronald Axetel, had passed away in Bakersfield. The Coroner's office had been unable to locate any relatives, but thanks to their efforts the veteran's status was discovered and the arrangements for a full military funeral was made.

Word went out to several groups in Kern County that these two veterans would be interned without benefit of family to mourn their passing. The DAR and SAR turned out, as did all the veterans's groups, the American Legion, the VFW, Amvets, the military order of the Purple Heart, numerous veterans and their families. In total more than two hundred attended both services! County Sheriff Donny Youngblood, a veteran himself, accepted the folded flags. He stated: *"They may have been indigent, but they were not invisible, and they deserved to be buried with honor."*

Donald N. Moran



TWO HUNDRED ATTENDED HOMELESS VETERAN'S FUNERAL AT THE NEW NATIONAL CEMETERY - BAKERSFIELD



THE HONOR GUARD STAFF SERGEANT PRESENTING THE FOLDED FLAG TO KERN COUNTY SHERIFF DONNY YOUNGBLOOD



The New National Cemetery - Bakersfield

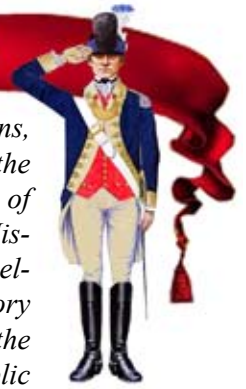
The new cemetery is located on a 500-acre site donated by Tejon Ranch, in the foothills of the Tehachapi mountains. The new cemetery will serve approximately 200,000 veterans in central California who are not currently provided burial space by a nearby national or state veterans cemetery. The new National cemetery was opened on December 7th, 2008, with over 1,000 citizens in attendance.



Herb Benham, California staff writer's description of it says it all! *"I attended the ground breaking/dedication ceremony for the Bakersfield National Cemetery on East Bear Mountain Boulevard. Tejon*

Ranch donated 500 acres at the top of White Wolf Pass. The property is not impressive at all if you don't like green meadows, 350-year-old oak trees, breathtaking mountain passes, poppies in the spring and crystal clear days in the winter when the valley below is smothered in fog. I have some advice. If you're a veteran and fought bravely for this country and you own a piece of dirt in another cemetery, put it on Craig's list. If you're like me, and were not in the military, consider enlisting because you're definitely going to want to be buried in the Bakersfield National Cemetery. Do it for your family who will thank you every time they visit".

Our Commander-in-Chief's Guards in Action



Compatriots of the Redlands Chapter and our Chapter all uniformed as the Commander-in-Chief's Guards presented the National Colors at the opening ceremonies at a recent 66er home baseball game. The 66ers are part of the Los Angeles Dodger organizations and the color guard may be invited to perform at the opening ceremonies of a Dodger home game.

ances at parades, holiday celebrations, schools, and major events - - such as the annual George Washington Massing of the Colors, Azusa Pacific University History Day, Redlands Fourth of July celebration and the Marching Thru History Exhibition that is held each year at the Prado Recreational Area, bring public awareness of our SAR organization". These appearances is a visual reminder of our founding fathers and our ancestors who through their sacrifices and heroics created our great country.

Colonel Will Langford, commander of the Redlands Chapter color guard wrote in their newsletter "The Redlands Guardian" September 2009 edition. "The Guard appear-



THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF'S GUARDS PRESENTING THE NATIONAL COLORS AT THE 66ERS BASE BALL GAME.

L-TO-R: COL. WILL LANGFORD, RICHARD MAYNARD, MELVIN HARRELL, MICHAEL HARRELL, RICHARD TOWNE AND CHARLIE FRYE.



Our Color Guard Debt Paid Off

Several years ago our Color Guard had an opportunity to participate in 'paid' living history events. It was a "catch 22" situation. In order to earn this available money we needed a replica Revolutionary War encampment. A total of \$5,000.00 was borrowed from our Permanent Fund as an investment. A replica of George Washington marquee (large tent), pup tents for the soldiers and all manner of 18th century en-



OUR GUARDS PROTECTING GENERAL WASHINGTON IN HIS MARQUEE.

campment equipment was purchased. In the next few years all but \$1,800.00 was repaid, then the paid events dried up.

This year we made an appeal to the wonderfully supportive members of our Chapter to help retire the debt. They did! And in short order.

Our special thanks to all and in particular to the two members that sent in sizeable donations. The debt has been retired!



THE SIEGE OF FORT STANWIX



To the casual reader, Fort Stanwix is somewhat of an enigma being located on the New York frontier, miles away from the major theatres of the Revolutionary War. Its only claim to fame is a British siege in August of 1777 in which the defenders of the Fort sustained only seven killed and eighteen wounded. How could such a 'siege' be of any historic significance? To understand the significance one must be able to grasp the entirety of the New York frontier situation - - the political, topographical and composition of the population.

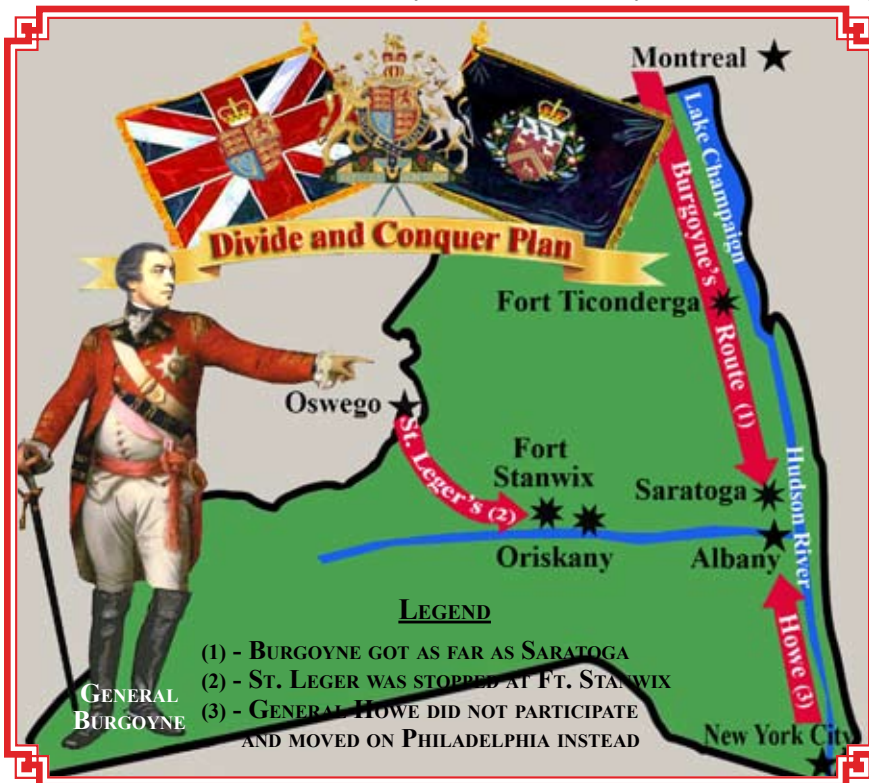
Fort Stanwix controls the ancient east-west water route through upstate New York. It is situated on the southeast bank of the headwaters of the Mohawk River, a tributary

Petri started construction. Fort 'Williams' was built at the Mohawk River landing, mounted several cannon and was the largest of the four Forts. Fort Craven was built just south of the Mohawk landing, Fort Newport was built at the upper landing on Wood Creek, and finally, Fort Bull was built a mile and a quarter west on Wood Creek. Fort Bull was constructed out of logs with two palisades. The outer being between 15 and 18 feet in height, while the inner one was barely the height of a standing man. It contained no artillery and was garrisoned by approximately 30 men.

On March 27th, 1756, the French, commanded by an Officer named De Lery, launched a surprise dawn attack on Fort Bull. Everyone in the fort except one women was killed.

The French appear to have been too weak to attack the other forts, now fully alerted, so they withdrew.

The following year, August 20th, 1757, saw the French strike again, this time defeating the English garrison at Fort Oswego. Word of battle reached the British at Fort Williams and warned them that a force of some six thousand French and Indians were marching against them. The British evacuated their Mohawk River forts in the face of such a formidable enemy, de-



River, which flows to the Atlantic. On the northern side of the Fort is Wood Creek, which flows into Fish Kill (kill is Dutch for Creek), which flows into Lake Oneida, thence to the Oswego River onto Lake Ontario, the western gateway to the Great Lakes and the Saint Lawrence River. Using this route an Army could move entirely by water from New York City to Eastern Canada, having only one portage of three miles, and that was over level land. Therefore, Fort Stanwix was strategically positioned, and was the westernmost fort on the New York Frontier.

During the French and Indian Wars (1754-1763), the British recognized the strategic importance of this north-south waterway. Major General William Shirley dispatched Captain William Williams of the 51st Regiment of Foot to build four forts to protect the portage. Williams aided by another Captain Marcus

stroyed them, and retreated to German Flats.

The French raids continued and finally General Abercromby ordered Brigadier General John Stanwix to re-occupy the forts at the portage and construct a Fort that would be impervious to French attack. Stanwix appointed a Captain of Engineers, William Green, to erect the fort. The first logs were laid on August 26th, 1758 and the fort was completed

continued on page 9 -->



THE SIEGE OF FORT STANWIX, continued from page 8

November of that year at a cost of \$266,000. As the British had hoped, Fort Stanwix prevented the Franco-Indian advances into the Mohawk Valley.

After the war, Fort Stanwix was the site chosen for the

However, on the site of the present City of Utica there was another Fort, also named "Fort Schuyler". That one was named after General Schuyler's uncle, who served during the French and Indian Wars. Hence, Fort Schuyler retained its original name.

The fertile Mohawk Valley was sparsely populated in



BRITISH MAJOR GENERAL SIR GUY CARLETON MEETING WITH THE IROQUOIS INDIANS TO SOLICIT THEIR SUPPORT FOR THE WAR AGAINST THE REBELLING COLONIES.

treaty with the Iroquois. Sir William Johnson convinced the Indians to give up all their lands south of a line running between Fort Pitt and Fort Stanwix and from there along the southern bank of the Ohio River. As peace with both the French and the Indians lasted over a decade, the need to maintain the frontier forts became unnecessary, so Fort Stanwix was allowed to fall into ruin.



MAJOR GENERAL SIR GUY CARLETON

Fort Stanwix. Colonel Dayton was to distinguish himself throughout the War and led a 1,300 man brigade in the final assaults at the siege of Yorktown. He was a personal friend of George Washington and it was said that he strongly resembled General Washington. On the 7th of January, 1783 he was promoted to Brigadier General and later Major General of New Jersey Militia. Dayton made the Fort inhabitable and defensible, renaming it after General Philip Schuyler.

1776, with an estimated 5,000 white settlers in the area. Along the northern reaches of the Valley were the Germans from the Rhenish Palatinates. They preferred the disciplined control of the King's government. Along the lower reaches of the Mohawk were the Dutch, who settled that area more than one hundred years earlier. They too, preferred the Royal Government.

Settled throughout the entire Valley were English, Irish, and Scotch Irish, whose sentiment was mixed. Around Johnstown lived numerous Highland Scots, who like their countrymen in the Carolinas, were fiercely loyal to the Crown.

William L. Stone in his monumental work, "*Border Wars of the American Revolution*" (2 Volumes.

New York - 1864) wrote: "The Loyalists in that [Mohawk] Valley were probably more numerous, in proportion to the whole population than in almost any other section of the Northern States . . ."

To the west of Fort Stanwix was the heart of the Great Iroquois League or the Six Nations - The Mohawks, Oneida, Onondagas, Cayugas and the

Continued on page 10 -->



THAVENDANEGEA OR JOSEPH BRANDT MOHAWK CHIEF



The Siege of Fort Stanwix continued from page 9

Tuscaroras. The thought of their alliance with England terrified the entire frontier.

Several conferences had been held with them. Notably at Oswego where nearly 1,500 Iroquois warriors listened to speeches encouraging their support of the crown. Another conference, held in Montreal, was attended by 3,000 warriors, with little effect. Major General Sir Guy Carleton, Governor of Canada, requested that they only hold themselves in readiness.

It would appear that Sir Guy, in spite of instructions from London, was unwilling to incite the frontier, as he was well aware that the Indians would commit atrocities that would lead to another invasion of Canada by the Americans - and one that he was ill-prepared to defend against.

The Americans held a similar conference in August of 1775 at Albany, New York, and they too urged the Iroquois to either join the Patriot cause or stay neutral. The Iroquois believed it was a "family feud" and stated they would take no part in it. In reality, they elected to sit back and watch, thereby determining who the stronger was, and join the "winning" side.

The British lavished gifts on them, which the Americans were wholly unable to match. Only the Oneidas and Tuscaroras maintained the agreement and eventually joined with the Americans.

Thus it becomes clear that Fort Stanwix was the "key" to the Mohawk Valley. Once it was reduced by the British military, the large Tory populations, the Six Nations, would rise up and fall upon the re-

bellious Americans. This would prevent another invasion of Canada, it would deny the American Army of much of its grain and beef, and above all, force the Americans to split up their forces to protect the frontier - - **Fort Stanwix had to be captured**

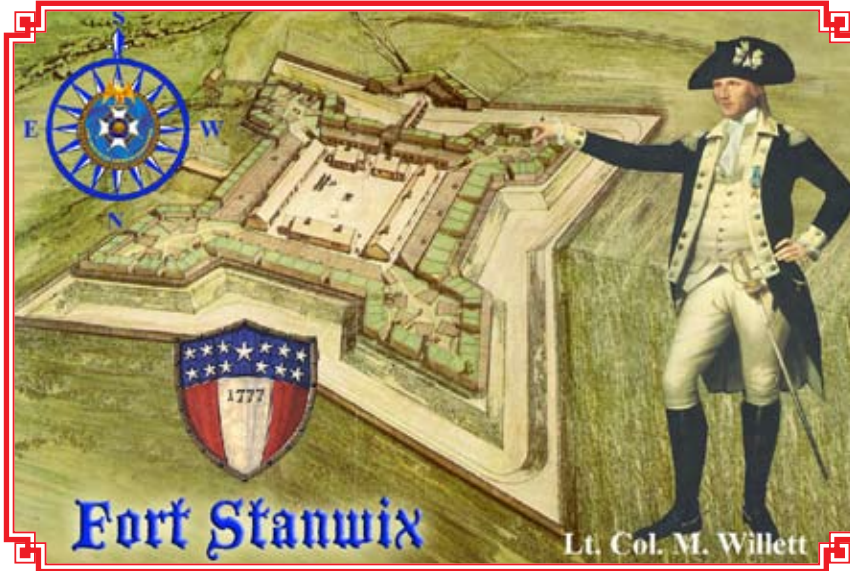
THE SIEGE

Colonel Peter Gansvoort (1749-1812) commanded the Third New York Continental Line Regiment which relieved Colonel Dayton at Fort Stanwix in April of 1777. He immediately set his Regiment to completing the work of strengthening the fortifications reconstructed by Colonel Dayton. He was

one of the most capable men in the New York area. Only 28 years of age, he had already proved himself a leader in the siege of Montreal, serving under General Montgomery. He was promoted to Lt. Colonel and placed in command of Fort George. On November 21st, 1776 he was again promoted, this time to full Colonel and given the Command of the 3rd New York. He was ably seconded by a courageous, enterprising officer, Lt. Colonel Marinus Willett a long time member of the Sons of Liberty in New York City. Through their combined efforts, Fort Stanwix was readied for its supreme test.

Their opponent, Brigadier General Barry St. Leger, an experienced soldier who had spent twenty of his forty years in His Majesty's service, had taken part in the siege of Louisburg and the capture of French Quebec during The French and Indian Wars. He was normally the Lt. Colonel of the crack 34th Regiment of Foot, but was given the temporary rank of Brigadier General for this operation. His force consisted of 100 men each from the 8th and 34th Regiments of Foot, a Regiment of Tories called the "Royal

Continued on page 11-->



Brigadier General

Barrimore "Barry" St. Leger



Colonel Peter Gansvoort

The Siege of Fort Stanwix continued from page 10

Greens” numbering some 133 men, a Company of Tory Rangers under Colonel John Butler, and approximately 350 Hanau Jaegers (Hessian Light Infantry). He also had two Six-pounders and two Three-pounders, and four small Mortars, along with forty artillerymen to operate them, a large number of Canadian irregulars and an estimated 1,000 Iroquois led by Joseph Brandt.

On July 25th, 1777 St. Leger arrived at British controlled Fort Oswego, New York and immediately started his march on Fort Stanwix. His method of march was both innovative and cautious. Five single-file columns of Iroquois spread out widely, insured that his force would not be ambushed. The advance guard of soldiers followed, with its men spaced ten paces apart, back to the main column, thereby insuring communication. He covered his flanks with Indians and Royal Greens. His rate of march was an incredible 10 miles a day.

St. Leger’s Indian scouts reported that a relief column with reinforcements and supplies was en route to Fort Stanwix. He was determined to prevent them from reaching the Fort. He dispatched a “*Flying Column*” of thirty Regulars from the 8th Regiment and 200 Iroquois to make the intercept. The mixed force of British and Indians reached the Fort on August 2nd, just in time to fire on the last of the two-hundred man reinforcements. They wounded two, killed one and captured one. All of these were boatmen.

Late on the 3rd of August, General St. Leger and his entire force arrived. His plan was simple - intimidate the garrison to surrender by a show of force. He ordered all of his sizable force to parade in front of the Fort. With their colorful uniforms, scarlet for the British, Blue for the Jaegers, Green for the Rangers and Tories, they made a spectacular display. But contrary to his intentions, all

that made an impression on the Garrison was the presence of 1,000 war-painted Iroquois. This made the defenders resolved in not letting them pass.

We are indebted to a young soldier-scholar of the Third New York Regiment who left us a complete journal of the siege that followed. The journal is attributed to a young Ensign, William Colbrath, whose name appears on the back cover of the notebook. However, the official records show that Colbrath did not arrive at Fort Stanwix until 19 July,

whereas the Journal starts on April 17th. For the sake of this article, we will report it as Colbrath even though there is some doubt as to the actual authorship. Colbrath - August 3rd. “*Early this morning, a Continental Flag made by the Officers of Col. Gansevoort’s Regiment was hoisted and a cannon levelled at the Enemies Camp was fired on the occasion.*”

St. Leger realized that the Fort was much too strong and too well garrisoned for him to make a frontal assault. He then deployed his forces for a formal siege. On August 6th, St. Leger’s scouts advised him of the approach of the relief force led by General Herkimer. St. Leger hastily pulled the majority of his forces from the siege lines and moved them east for the ambush that became known as the Battle of Oriskany.

Herkimer’s messengers to Fort Stanwix requested that the Garrison send a force out to meet him upon his approach but did not reach the Fort until the Battle was at its height. Upon receipt of the message from Herkimer, Colonel Gansevoort dispatched Lt. Colonel Willett with a force of 250 men and one field piece. Willett found that the siege lines were barely defended and proceeded to attack the camp area of the British and Indians unaware of the terrible battle that was taking place. As he attacked, the British and Indians abandoned their positions



MILITIA GENERAL NICHOLAS HERKIMER, DIRECTING THE FIGHTING AT ORISKANY. THE GENERAL HAD HIS LEG AMPUTATED BUT DID NOT SURVIVE THE SURGERY.



THE MONUMENT TO GENERAL NICHOLAS HERKIMER IN THE VILLAGE OF HERKIMER ERECTED BY THE DAR.



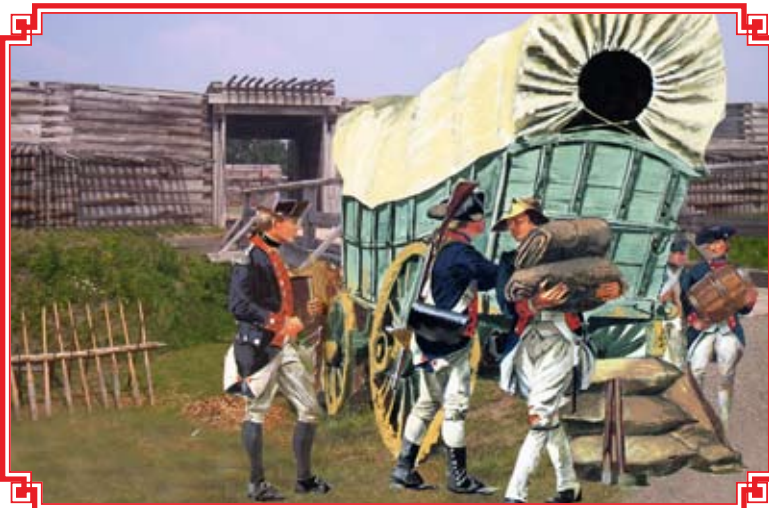
THE SIEGE OF FORT STANWIX continued from page 11

very methodically took or destroyed all the British supplies. He took twenty-one wagonloads of equipment and supplies. Five British flags were raised “*Under the Continental Flag*”, stated Colbrath. The psychological impact of the loss of all their equipment took a severe toll on the British and the Indians.

Having stopped the reinforcement column from reaching Fort Stanwix, St. Leger appears to have believed that the Fort would surrender. He dispatched Colonel Butler, Major Ancron and an unnamed British officer under a flag of truce with a demand for their immediate surrender. According to Willett and Colbrath, the surrender demand stated that he [St. Leger] had prevailed on his Indian allies to spare the lives of the garrison should they now surrender, but if they did not, the Indians would massacre the whole garrison then proceed down the Valley killing all they encountered, including women and children.

Col. Willett replied for the 3rd New York - “*Do I understand you Sir? I think you say you come from a British Colonel, who is commander of the army that invests this Fort; and by your uniform you appear to be an officer in the British service . . . you come from a British Colonel to the Commandant of this garrison to him that, if he does not deliver up the garrison . . . he will send his Indians to murder our women and children.*” Willett went on to scorn Major Ancron that no officer should deliver a degrading message, and that Fort Stanwix would not surrender.

With the demand for surrender refused, St. Leger attempted to tighten his hold on the Fort. He built new redoubts and started to dig trenches closer to the Fort. Each day the firing grew hotter. According to Colbrath’s journal “. . . at 1:00 o’clock Col. Willett and Lt. Stockwell went out of the Fort on a secret expedition.” That mission was to obtain help for the Fort. Two days later they arrived at Fort Dayton having evaded the Indians by traveling at night through the swamps.



LIEUTENANT WILLIAM COLBRATH SUPERVISING THE TROOPS UNLOADING ONE OF THE TWENTY-ONE WAGONLOADS OF CAPTURED BRITISH SUPPLIES.

Reporting the situation to General Schuyler, the General called a council of war, proposing to send a strong detachment to relieve Fort Stanwix. Many of his officers opposed the move as General Burgoyne was approaching from the North with a very strong force, and they felt it necessary to keep their small Army intact to oppose him. When Schuyler insisted, some of the officers insinuated that Schuyler’s plan was deliberately weakening their Army and was treason. Schuyler overheard this comment and bit the stem off his clay pipe. He angrily threw the two pieces away stating, “*Gentlemen, I shall take the responsibility upon myself. Fort Stanwix and the Mohawk Valley shall be saved! Where is the Brigadier who will command the relief? I shall beat up for volunteers tomorrow.*”

Benedict Arnold offered his services which were accepted by Schuyler. Arnold was a Major General, and a strong supporter of Philip Schuyler. His second in command was Brigadier General Ebenezer Learned of Massachusetts. Together they led a nine-hundred man relief expedition.

Before leaving Fort Dayton with the relief column, General Arnold developed a plan to further the relief. A Mohawk Valley German, Hon Yost Schuyler, a distant cousin of General Schuyler and nephew of General Herkimer had been sentenced to death for having attempted to lure men into deserting. Hon Yost was partially insane - a half-idiot. The Indians believed that the “Great Spirit” talked to the insane, and so they could be prophets. Arnold offered Hon Yost a pardon if he, assisted by an Oneida Indian, would go into St. Leger’s Indian Camp and spread the news that General Arnold was marching on them with a force of 3,000 men, and was only a few miles away. Benedict Arnold was feared by the British and the Indians alike. Leading a force of some 3,000 men would mean utter destruction for them.

Hon Yost agreed and started for Fort Stanwix. Upon his arrival at the Indian encampment in the siege lines, he spread the news of Arnold’s coming. The Indians accepted

Continued on page 13-->

The Siege of Fort Stanwix continued from page 12

the information as truth, took what they could carry, rioted, stealing liquor and other equipment from the British camp, and fled into the woods.

This left St. Leger with a much too small force to hold out against the large force coming against him. His men were tired from the two weeks of laying siege to Fort Stanwix, and moreover, he had lost many of his Tory allies in the hard fought Battle of Oriskany. He ordered his remaining men to take what they could carry on their backs and retreat to Fort Oswego. He left his tents standing, along with his artillery train, ammunition and all his supplies that Lt. Col. Willett had not captured in his raid on their camp.

Arnold received the news that he had completely routed the sieging Army without firing a shot. There was nothing left to do but to continue on his march and formally relieve the besieged Fort. Ensign Colbrath noted in his journal on August 23rd: *“This afternoon the Honorable Major General Arnold arrived with near 1,000 men. They were saluted with a discharge of powder from our Mortars, formerly the Enemy’s, and all the cannon from the Bastions amounting in whole to 13, attended with three cheers from the troops on the Bastions. - Finis.”*

The results of the siege of Fort Stanwix and the Battle of Oriskany were two-fold. First, General Burgoyne was now totally alone. Lieutenant General Sir Henry Clinton’s half hearted attempt to move up the Hudson River, which Sir William Howe was supposed to have done was not success-

ful. As a result there were no effective forces doing anything to assist him. There would be no one to join him at Albany. The second accomplishment was that the Mohawk Valley was now firmly held by the Americans.

Donald N. Moran

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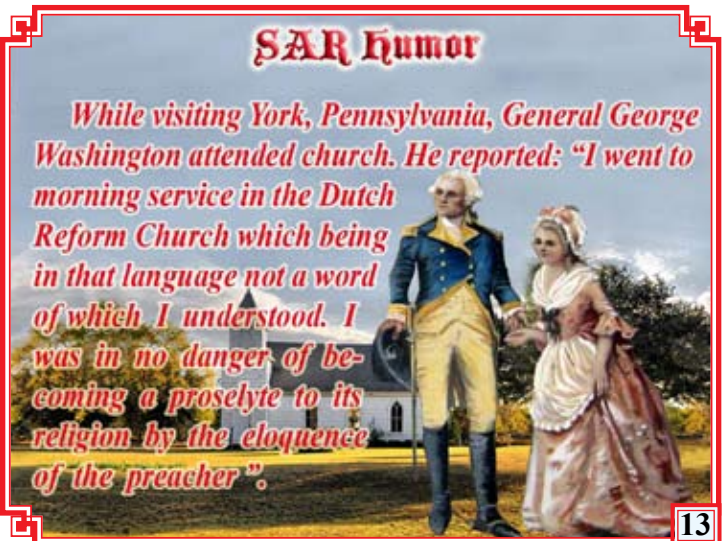
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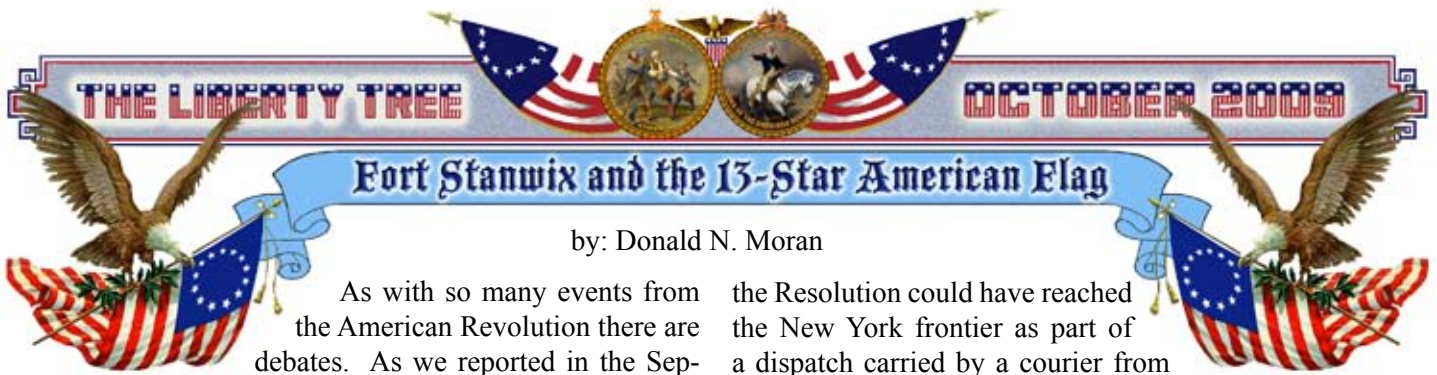
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by: Donald N. Moran

As with so many events from the American Revolution there are debates. As we reported in the September edition of *"The Liberty Tree"*, we entered the debate regarding Betsy Ross making the first 13-Star American flag. In this edition, we will enter the controversy involving the claim that it was first flown at Fort Stanwix, New York, during the British siege of that American fort.

Several historical accounts exist in which Fort Stanwix is claimed to be the site. One of the earliest was written by a local Mohawk Valley citizen, Pomperoy Jones. He reported that the commanding officer of the 3rd New York Continental Regiment which garrisoned the fort, Colonel Peter Gansevoort, received a personal letter containing a report that the Continental Congress had passed a resolution on June 14th, 1777 which containing a description of the newly authorized American flag. Others claim that the Colonel had received a copy of a newspaper containing the description. This story was picked up and repeated in *The New York Larned History*. In John Albert Scott's early book on Fort Stanwix and Oriskany, he repeats the story that the first Stars and Stripes was raised over Fort Stanwix. Typically, once something appears in print, it is accepted as fact and often repeated.

The June 14th, 1777, Resolution read: *"RESOLUTION: that the flag of the United States be made of thirteen stripes, alternate red and white; that the union be thirteen stars in a blue field representing a new constellation"*.

The letter to Colonel Gansevoort, mentioned as evidence above has not been found. His military papers have been compiled by the New York State Historian, but as of this writing have not been published.

The possibility of the Resolution having been brought to his attention in a newspaper article is also very unlikely. The earliest report of the Resolution so far found is in the August 30th, 1777 edition of the Pennsylvania Evening Post. The first New York newspaper to print the article was on September 3rd, in the New York Journal and General Advertiser. However, it is possible that

the Resolution could have reached the New York frontier as part of a dispatch carried by a courier from Philadelphia, but here again, there is no evidence to that having happened. What we do know about the flag situation at Fort Stanwix is surprisingly extensive. Apparently the Third New York Regiment was not equipped with a flag of any kind, nor did Colonel Elias Dayton's Third New Jersey regiment that was relieved by Colonel Gansevoort in April, 1777, leave any flags.

Lt. Colonel Marinus Willett and Lieutenant William Colbrath both left accounts of the flag situation. In his 'Narrative' of the siege, Lt. Colonel Willett wrote: *"The Fort had never been supplied with a Flag - the importance of having one on the arrival of the Enemy had set our Ingenuity to work, and a respectable one was formed. [The] white stripes were cut out of ammunition shirts and blue stripes out of the cloak formerly mentioned taken from the Enemy at Peeks-hill. The red stripes out of different pieces of stuff collected from sundry persons. The Flag was sufficiently large and a general Exhilaration of spirits appeared on beholding it Wave the morning after the arrival of the Enemy."* When the manuscript was prepared for publication by Lt. Colonel Willett's son, William, minor changes were made, but the original manuscript survived and the above is from that source.

Later in the Willett manuscript there is a statement regarding the cloak which was used in the manufacture of the flag: *"What baggage the enemy had they left it consisted of only a few blankets and cloaks - - a blue Comblot Cloak taken here afterwards served to enable us to use it for the blue stripes of a Flag which was afterwards hoisted during the siege of Fort Stanwick. . . ."*

The statement regarding the flag having blue stripes would refer to a 'Grand Union' flag rather than a 13-star flag.

Lieutenant William Colbrath of the Third noted in his journal in the entry dated August 3rd: *"Early this morning a Continental Flag made by the officers of Col. Gansevoort's Regiment*

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FORT STANWIX continued from page 14

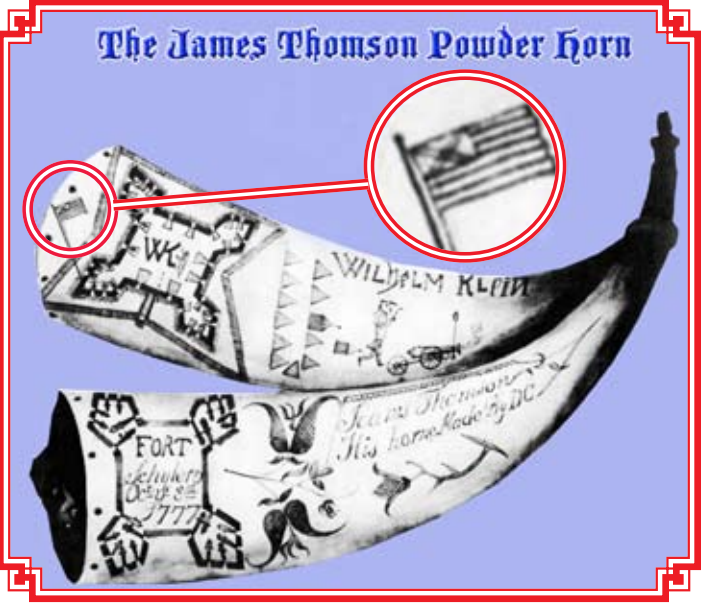
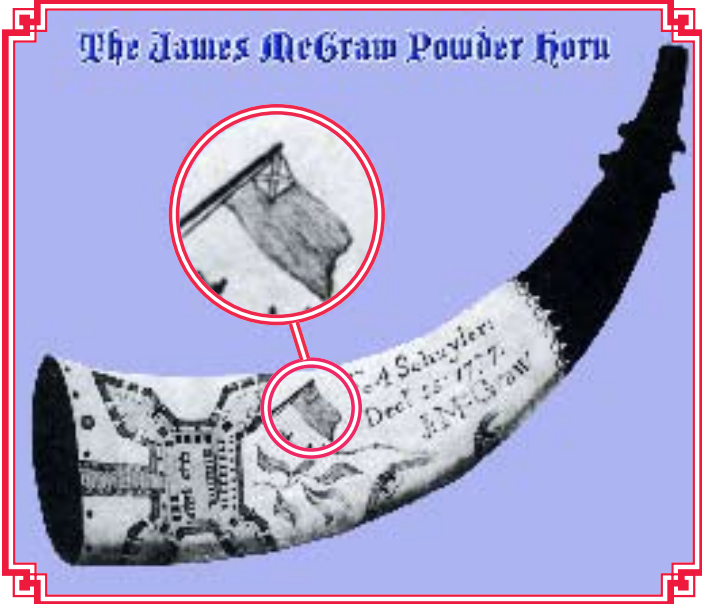
was hoisted and a cannon leveled at the Enemies Camp was fired on the occasion.”

Colbrath’s use of the term “Continental Flag” is also significant, in that it was commonly used to describe what is now called the Grand Union Flag. Certainly if the officers at the Fort had been informed about the new flag design, having gone to the trouble to make a flag, would have complied with the new resolution.

Two of the soldiers who were stationed at Fort Stanwix during the siege spent their leisure time by carving designs on their powder horns.

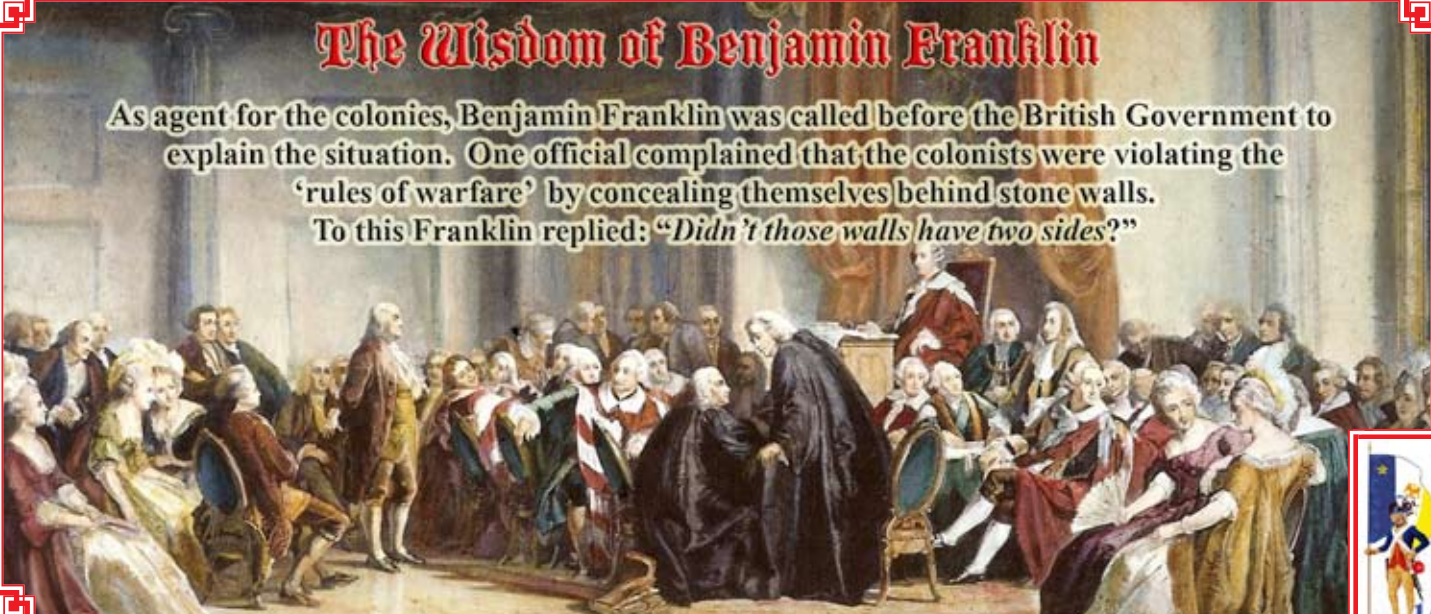
der horns. This was a common practice of the day.

James Thomson’s powder horn has the date of October 8th, 1777 carved into it and clearly shown is the Continental Flag with the Cross of Saint Andrew’s. The reverse side of this powder horn is engraved with the name ‘Wilhelm Klien’ and also “This horn made by DC” - neither engraving is explained. The second powder horn was carved by J. McGraw and like Thomson’s horn, has the date December 25th, 1777 carved into it. It too shows the Cross of Saint Andrews in the canton. Both powder horns are in the Grider Collection of the Massachusetts Historical Society.



The Wisdom of Benjamin Franklin

As agent for the colonies, Benjamin Franklin was called before the British Government to explain the situation. One official complained that the colonists were violating the ‘rules of warfare’ by concealing themselves behind stone walls. To this Franklin replied: “Didn’t those walls have two sides?”



A historical painting depicting Benjamin Franklin in a dark coat standing before a British court. He is surrounded by officials in red and white robes. The scene is set in a grand, ornate room with high ceilings and large windows.



The SAR's Membership Medal

Most if not all compatriots are familiar with the Sons of the American Revolution's Membership Medal. It is worn on the right breast as a regular medal, or for Chapter presidents, as depicted hereon, suspended from a neck ribbon.

The medal was designed in the very early days of the Society by Major Goldsmith B. West, Vice-President of the Alabama Society. Compatriot West chose the ancient cross of the Royal and Military Order of St. Louis as his source for the design. The Order of St. Louis was founded by King Louis XIV in 1693.

The Order of St. Louis was established to recognize the service of France's veterans. In addition to the decoration the King founded the Hotel des Invalids in Paris for his disabled veterans. It was the first "old Soldier's Home" in modern times. Today it is best known as the final resting place for Napoleon Bonaparte. The medal was accompanied by a nice pension, depending on rank and length of service the pension could amount to 800 to 6,000 liras annually and exempt from certain taxes!

The cross of the SAR medal and that of the Cross of St. Louis are identical except in three design details. In the center of the medal is a medallion. In the case of the St. Louis medal (shown to the left) it is the image of St. Louis. In the SAR's it is the image of George Washington. The motto that surrounds the medallion for the SAR's medal are the words: "*Libertas et Patria*" - (Liberty and Country). The St. Louis medal has the words: "*Bellicae Virtutis Praemium*" - (The Reward for Virtue in War). And, finally, the spaces between the arms of the cross are different. The St. Louis Medal has the French fleurs de lis, whereas the SAR's medal has the laurel wreath denoting the victory of democracy.

There were several additional reasons for Compatriot West's choice. The Grand Master of the Order of St. Louis, King Louis XVI, gave America much

needed military equipment, uniforms and financial aid, without which the war could not have been won. Numerous French officers, who were Chevaliers of the Order of St. Louis volunteered to assist the American cause of independence.

The Order of St. Louis was the first order of military merit. Military orders previous to the Order of St. Louis were reserved chivalric orders, reserved for the nobility, and were international in scope, for service to a cause, usually Christendom, whereas the Order of St. Louis was established to reward military service to one's country. The SAR's reason for being is to recognize the service of our Revolutionary War ancestors and their service. The laurel wreath that appears between the arms of the cross is significant. It is derived from another

French military order. Napoleon Bonaparte instituted the "Legion on Honour" (shown below). He created it to fill the void left when the old Royal Orders of French Monarchy were replaced after the French Revolution. Like the Order of St. Louis it was awarded for military merit regardless of social standing. To this day, the French Legion of Honour is still one of the world's most prestigious orders. The Laurel Wreath concept was borrowed from it. The SAR's medal is the exact same size as the Legion of Honour. The major difference between the two is the number of arms of the cross. The Legion of Honour has five arms, whereas the SAR's medal has only four, as in the Cross of Christ. This difference was to proclaim that the excesses of the deism and atheism of the French Revolution were not accepted by an American patriotic society, as America was founded as a nation under God. An eagle suspends the cross from the ribbon drape unlike European Orders. This was adopted from the emblem of the Society of the Cincinnati. The SAR was conceived as a society similar to that of the Cincinnati, but open to all sons of our Revolutionary War ancestors.





The Sons of Liberty Chapter held its September 19th, 2009 meeting onboard the S.S. Lane Victory. President Douglas H. Bradley presiding. Attending were: Doug Bradley, Jim Bradley, Lowell Downer, Elliott Graham, Melvin Harrell, Ron Johnson, David Lasher, Jim McHargue, Don Moran, Vic Springer. Guests were: Kathy Harrell, Barbara Johnson, Dawn, Jesse and Sean Lasher, Paula McHargue, Linda Moran and Anne Springer.

OPENING CEREMONY

The opening ceremonies were conducted at the start of the joint meeting.

JULY 18th, 2009 MEETING MINUTES

The minutes of the July meeting were not presented for approval at the August meeting, hence were presented at the September meeting. It was moved they be accepted by the Rev. Vic Springer and seconded by Lowell Downer. The motion carried.

AUGUST 15th, 2009 MEETING MINUTES

It was moved that the minutes of the August 15th meeting be accepted by Lowell Downer and seconded by Jim McHargue. The Motion Carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT

In the absence of David Eaton, who is attending a Society of Cincinnati meeting in New England, the Treasurer's Report was distributed. President Bradley pointed out that the Color Guard debt to the Permanent Fund has been retired, paid in full. The amount in our checking account is \$1,368.86. with \$331.38 owed to the chapter.

It was moved by the Rev. Victor Springer and seconded by Jim McHargue that the report be accepted. The motion carried.

PERMANENT FUND REPORT

The Permanent Fund report was distributed. As of this date the fund has \$54,845.03. 75% of the earned interest has been turned over to the General Fund, and \$725.00 from the sales of the Chapter and Massing of the Colors medals

was turned over to the fund as well as the Color Guard debt being paid off.

It was moved by Elliott Graham and seconded by Melvin Harrell that the report be accepted. The motion carried.

REPORT OF THE REGISTRAR

In the absence of the Registrar, his report was distributed. It denoted we have 18 applicants in various stages of completion.

**REPORT OF OUR REGISTRAR
BERNI CAMPBELL**

Jim McHargue reported that he had spoken to Berni and he was recovering from a bout with the H1N1 flu. We wish him well.

The event is on October 3rd and 4th at Prado Dam.

ENDORSEMENT OF CANDIDATES FOR NATIONAL OFFICE

President Douglas Bradley recommended that the Chapter endorse the following Compatriots who are running for National Office.

Joseph Dooley
for Genealogist General

Cdr. Charles R. Lampman
for Historian General

Larry H. Magerkurth
for Secretary General

J. David Sympson
for President General

It was so moved by the Rev. Vic Springer and seconded by Elliott Graham. The motion unanimously carried

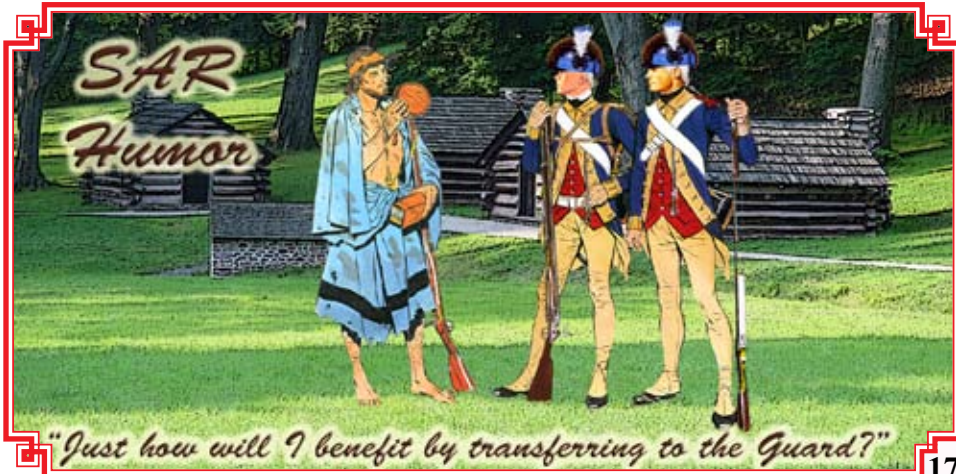
There being no further business before the Sons of Liberty Chapter, Preident Douglas Bradley declared the meeting adjourned.

Donald N. Moran
Secretary

THIS WAS THE FIRST REGULAR MEETING OF THE CHAPTER THAT BERNI HAS MISSED SINCE THE CHAPTER WAS FOUNDED IN 1981.

MARCHING THROUGH HISTORY

A flyer on the forthcoming Marching Through History event was distributed.



Our Chapter Medals Are Still Available



THE SONS OF LIBERTY CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP MEDAL

The *membership medal* is available to Chapter members only, and is depicted to the left, and our *George Washington Massing of the Colors and Salute to Our Armed Forces* medal, available to any one who has participated in said event, and is depicted to the right can be purchased for \$ 27.00 each, including shipping and handling.



THE GEORGE WASHINGTON MASSING OF THE COLORS MEDAL

If you wish to purchase either or both please send a request to our Secretary,

Donald N. Moran
 17651 Arlington Place,
 Tehachapi, California 93561-5300,
 or
 e-mail: dmoransar@att.net.

Did You Know ?

General George Washington highest rank in the United States Military - "*General of the Armies of the United States*". (Note the plural use of 'Armies') which was awarded posthumously.

General John "Black Jack" Pershing was awarded the title "General of the Armies of the United States" but only wore four stars.



By an Act of Congress, Joint Resolution of Congress, Public Law 94-479, enacted in 1976, "*General George Washington is to have precedence over all other grades of the Army, past and present.*"



During his life General Washington wore three stars, then the rank insignia for "Commander-in-Chief".




COMING EVENTS
MONTHLY MEETING
OCTOBER 17TH, 2009

GUEST SPEAKER
SHIRLEY JUDY

TOPIC
VALLEY FORGE TEACHER'S PROGRAM

SHIRLEY WAS 2009
WINNER OF THE PROGRAM
AND WHO WAS SENT TO
VALLEY FORGE



To be held at the Tam O'Shanter Inn
 2980 Los Feliz Blvd.
 Los Angeles

A Point to Ponder



"The American Republic will endure until the day Congress discovers that it can bribe the public with the public's money"

Alexis de Tocqueville
 1835

2009

Oct. 3rd & 4th - - - - - Marching Through History

Oct. 17th - - - Monthly Meeting

Nov. 13th & 14th - - - State Meeting
Riverside - Mission Inn

Nov. 21st - - - Monthly Meeting

Dec. tba - - - - - Christmas Party

2010

Jan. tba - - - - - Installation of Officers Luncheon

Feb. 20th - - - Monthly Meeting

Feb. 21st - - - Massing of the Colors

Mar. 20th - - - Monthly Meeting

Apr. 17th - - - Monthly Meeting

May 15th - - - Monthly Meeting